BRECONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1953

by

W. F. W. BETENSON, M.B., D.P.H.
County Medical Officer of Health.

BRECON:
Express and County Times, Printers.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BRECONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

I have the honour to submit to you my Twenty-Second Annual Report with Vital Statistics and Sanitary Conditions of Breconshire for the year 1953.

The death rate was 12.22 compared with 11.4 for England and Wales and the Infant Mortality rate was 29.54 compared to 26.8 for England and Wales. These increases are of no significance and represent a normal trend of fluctuation from year to year. There was no death of a mother during childbirth in the year. 61.36% of births have occurred in hospitals.

The Domestic Help Scheme is constantly increasing and it is becoming evident that the problems of this service cannot be really tackled without a whole-time Supervisor.

The demand upon the ambulance service is steadily increasing; the scheme for dental care of mothers and young children is becoming more widely used.

At present B.C.G. Vaccination is only undertaken by the Chest Physicians, but if the need for this grows, it will present a serious staffing problem to cope with it.

Dr. D. W. T. Harris resigned in July, 1953, and was replaced by Dr. R. Gerwyn Evans in October, 1953.

I have the honour to be,
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,
W. F. W. BETENSON,
County Medical Officer of Health.

County Health Offices,
Watton, Brecon.
10th October, 1953.
Telephone: Office — Brecon 214.
Home — Brecon 167.

Constitution of the Committees concerned with matters of Public Health, during the year 1953/54.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman: Ald. J. G. Eadie, Fronheulog, Builth Wells.

MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE COUNCIL:

Coun. David Lewis, M.B.E., Cwmpadest, Cray.
Coun. J. V. Like, Skynlais House, Church Street, Hay-on-Wye.

Brecon District:

Coun. E. D. Morgan, Fennyfach, Brecon.
Coun. W. J. Bevan, 17, Trenewydd, Llanfaes. Brecon.

Brynmawr District:

Coun. James Pritchard, 4, Clydach Street, Brynmawr.
Coun. T. R. Jones, The Daren. Darenfelen Road, Brynmawr.

Builth District:

Ald. J. G. Eadie (Chairman). Fronheulog, Builth Wells.
Coun. T. H. O. Thomas, Talwrnmaenog, Llanwrthwl.

Crickhowell District:

Coun. John Thomas, Saladin House, Llangynidr, Nr. Crickhowell.
Coun. D. P. Thomas, Neuadd, Cwmdu, Crickhowell.

Devynock District:

Coun. Penry Davies, Penrhiew, Trecastle.
Coun. Rhys O. Jones, Aberseven, Trallong, Sennybridge.

Hay and Talgarth District:

Coun. T. I. Watkins, Graigend, Talgarth.
Coun. T. Havard, Little Lodge, Three Cocks, Brecs.

Vaynor District:

Coun. Mrs. M. E. Morgan, 33, The Copse, Trefechan, Cefn Coed.
Coun. L. I. Moses, Plasydinas, Pontneathvaughhan, Via Neath.

Ystradgynlais District:

Ald. Idris Davies, O.B.E.. Bwlfa. Abercrave, Swansea.
Coun. J. E. Williams, Tanybedw, Cwmgiedd, Ystradgynlais.

Ald. H. Evans, 10, Vaynor Villas, Cefn Coed. (Deceased).
Coun. John Jones, "Voel," 12, King Street, Brynmawr. (Deceased).
Coun. W. J. Millichap, Llwynnoyadd Farm, Llandefalle, Nr. Brecon.
Coun. Thomas Rees, Thornleigh, Palleg Road, Lower Cwmtwrch.
Coun. L. F. Saunders, 2, Factory Road, Brynmawr.
Coun. E. W. McIntosh, Dinas View, Clydach, Nr. Abergavenny.
Coun. J. T. Walsh, Avondale, Ystradgynlais.

MEMBERS CO-OPTED BY THE COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Aline Sparrow, Glawcoed Cottages, Talybont-on-Usk.
Mrs. E. Smetham, Carn Brae, Cefn Coed
Mrs. J. G. Eadie, Fronheulog, Builth Wells.
Dr. Jenkin Davies, Ruperra House, Brecon. (Resigned—1954).
Mrs. M. M. Prosser, Lletty Dafydd, Ystradgynlais.
Dr. R. J. Jayne, The Cottage, Talgarth.
Mrs. J. Walford Price, 27, King Edward Road, Brynmawr.
Mrs. J. G. Rees, Glan-Nant, Crickhowell.

County Ambulance Service Transport Sub-Committee.

BRECON DISTRICT.

Coun. W. J. Bevan, 17, Trenewydd, Llanfaes, Brecon.
Coun. E. D. Morgan, Fennyfach, Brecon.

BRYNMAWR DISTRICT.

Coun. T. R. Jones, The Daren, Darenfelen Road, Brynmawr.
Coun. L. F. Saunders, 2, Factory Road, Brynmawr.

BUILTH DISTRICT,

Ald. J. G. Eadie, Fronheulog, Builth Wells.
Coun. T. H. O. Thomas, Talwrnmaenog, Llanwrthwl.

CRICKHOWELL DISTRICT.

Coun. John Thomas, Saladin House, Llangynidr, Nr. Crickhowell.
Coun. D. P. Thomas, Neuadd, Cwmdu, Crickhowell.

DEFYNNOG DISTRICT.

Coun. Rhys O. Jones, Abersevin, Trallong.
Coun. David Lewis, Cwmpadest, Cray.

HAY AND TALGARTH DISTRICT.

Coun. T. I. Watkins, Craigend, Talgarth.
Coun. J. V. Like, Skynlais House, Church Street, Hay-on-Wye.

VAYNOR DISTRICT.

Coun. Lewis I. Moses, Plasydinas, Pontneathvaughan, via Neath.
Coun. Mrs. M. E. Morgan, 3, The Copse, Trefechan, Merthyr Tydfil.

YSTRADGYNLAIS DISTRICT.

Coun. T. Rees, Thornleigh, Palleg Road, Lower Cwmtwrch.
Coun. J. E. Williams (Chairman), Tanybedw, Cwmgiedd, Ystradgynlais.

MEMBERS REPRESENTING OUTSIDE BODIES.

BRECON AND RADNOR HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.
E. A. Watts, Esq., Bryn-y-gaer, Alexandra Road, Brecon.

ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM.
Comdr. A. T. L. Wilson, Garth House, Garth, Llangammarch Wells.

BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.
Lt.-Col. D. R. H. Gwynne, Trefecca Fawr, Talgarth.

TRANSPORT OFFICER.
C. H. Smith, Esq., W.H.S.A. Department, Priory House, 4, Cathedral Road, Cardiff.

BUILTH STATION REPRESENTATIVE.
Mr. G. Newell, Corps Superintendent, St. John Ambulance Brigade, Bryndolau, Park Wells Road, Builth Wells.

CRICKHOWELL STATION REPRESENTATIVE.
Mr. R. G. Jones, Castle Garage, Crickhowell.

BRECON STATION REPRESENTATIVE.
Mrs. de Lonra, 10, Free Street, Brecon.

HAY STATION REPRESENTATIVE.
Mr. F. H. Bassett, 30, Gipsy Castle Estate, Hay-on-Wye.

YSTRADGYNLAIS AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION.
Mr. William Lewis, Maes-y-llan, Station Road, Ystradgynlais.
Mr. J. T. Rees, 6, Glanrhyd Road, Ystradgynlais.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE.

Coun. David Lewis, Cwmpadest, Cray.
Coun. J. V. Like, Skynlais House, Church Street, Hay-on-Wye.

BRECON DISTRICT.
Coun. W. J. Bevan, 17, Trenewydd, Llanfaes, Brecon.
Coun. E. D. Morgan, Fennyfach, Brecon.

BRYNMAWR DISTRICT.
Coun. John Jones (Chairman), Voel, 12, King Street. (Deceased 1954).
Coun. E. W. McIntosh, Dinas View, Clydach.

BUILTH DISTRICT.
Ald. J. G. Eadie, Fronheulog, Builth Wells.
Coun. T. H. O. Thomas, Talwrnmaenog, Llanwrthwl, Nr. Llandrindod. Wells.

CRICKHOWELL DISTRICT.
Coun. John Thomas, Saladin House, Llangynidr.
Coun. D. P. Thomas, Neuadd, Cwmdu, Crickhowell.

DEFYNNOG DISTRICT.
Coun. R. O. Jones, Abersevin, Trallong, Brecon.
Coun. Penry Davies, Penrhiew, Trecastle.

HAY AND TALGARTH DISTRICT.
Coun. T. Havard, Little Lodge, Three Cocks, Brecs.
Coun. T. I. Watkins, Craigend, Talgarth.

VAYNOR DISTRICT.
Coun. L. I. Moses, Plasydinas, Pontneathvaughan, Cefn Coed.
Coun. Mrs. M. E. Morgan, 3, The Copse, Trefechan, Cefn Coed.

YSTRADGYNLAIS DISTRICT.
Coun. T. Rees, Thornleigh, Palleg Road, Lower Cwmtwrch.
Coun. J. E. Williams, Tanybedw, Cwmgiedd, Ystradgynlais.

Ald. Idris Davies, O.B.E., Bwllfa, Abercrave, Swansea.
Coun. W. J. Millichap, Llwynnoyadd Farm, Llandefalle, Nr. Brecon.
Dr. T. J. Davies, Ruperra House, Brecon. (Resigned 1954).

LADY MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE COMMITTEE.
Coun. Mrs. M. M. Prosser, Llety Dafydd, Ystradgynlais.
Mrs. J. G. Rees, Glan Nant, Crickhowell.

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL.

County M.O.H. and Principal School M.O.	W. F. W. Betenson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Assistant C.M.O.H. and School M.O.	C. M. Evans, B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Assistant C.M.O.H. and School M.O.	R. G. Evans, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., C.P.H., D.P.H., (Commenced 21/10/53)

DENTAL.

Principal Dental Officer.	Mr. R. G. Downes (deceased 1954).
Assistant Dental Officer.	Mr. J. H. Sutcliffe, L.D.S.
,, ,, ,,	Mr. P. G. George, L.D.S.
Dental Attendant.	Miss M. Anthony.
,, ,,	Miss W. A. P. Mills.

NURSING.

Superintendent Nursing Officer.	Miss E. Bestford Dunn, Glasbury. (Tele.—Glasbury).
Health Visitors and School Nurses.	Miss H. K. King, Brynmawr. Miss S. M. Thickens, Cefn Coed. Mrs. C. M. Bowen, Llangattock. Mrs. Myra Davies, Pontardawe, Glam.
Health Vistors.	Mrs. A. R. Evans, Ystradgynlais.
District Nurses/ Midwives/ Health Visitors.	Miss M. L. Evans, 16. Penpentre, Talybont-on-Usk. (Tele. Talybont-on-Usk 265). Miss D. I. Peregrine, Malwa, The Avenue, Brecon (Tele. Brecon 298). Mrs. D. O. Hathaway, Tyclyd, Alexandra Road, Brecon (Tele. Brecon 361).
District Nurses/ Midwives.	Nurse F M. Bound, Fire Tree Cottage, Talgarth (Tele. Talgarth 66). Nurse G. D. Freebury, High Trees, Abergavenny Road, Gilwern (Tele. Gilwern 33). Nurse A. M. R. Isitt, 4, Llanbedr Road, Crickhowell. Nurse G Jones, Glanavon, Castle Street, Builth Wells (Tele. Builth Wells 2165). Nurse S. Morgan, Hendre, Bear Street, Hay-on-Wye (Tele. Hay-on-Wye 39). Nurse I. M. Williams, 42, Lansbury Road, Brynmawr (Tele. Brynmawr 367). Nurse D. G. Berry, 2, George Street, Brecon (Tele. Brecon 431). Nurse I. E. Chilton, Colindale Bunaglow, Brynmawr (Tele. Brynmawr 330). Nurse A. Evans. (Retired 31/12/53). Bristol House, Abercrave Nurse M. Jones, 10, Tudor Avenue, Hirwaun (Tele. Hirwaun 291). Nurse M. C. Joseph, 1, William Street, Glanrhyd, Ystradgynlais (Tele. Glantawe 3244). Nurse A. E. Williams, Tyclyd, Sennybridge, Nr. Brecon. (Tele. Sennybridge 47). Nurse D. S. Lewis (Resigned). 2, Ffynnon Dewi, Llanfaes, Brecon Nurse A. M. Daniel, Caemaen, Penycae, Swansea Valley (Tele. Abercrave 254). Nurse E. J. Davies, The Warren, Three Cocks, Brecs. (Tele. Glasbury 60).

District Nurses/ Midwives.—Continued.

Nurse F. M. Davies,
Dolfari, Beulah, Garth, Brecs.
(Tele. Llangammarch 212).

Nurse A. Messer,
Clovelly, Erwood, Brecs.
(Tele. Erwood 214).

Nurse E. R. Page,
3, Trawscoed Villas, Llanwrtyd Wells
(Tele. Llanwrtyd Wels 223).

Nurse Elonwy Powell,
School House, Troer'glien, Upper Cwmtwrch
(Telephone: Upper Cwmtwrch 235).

Nurse M. A. Davies,
Brynteg, Bwlch, Brecs.
(Tele. Bwlch 240).

Nurse M. Harman,
2, Ffynnon Dewi, Llanfaes, Brecon.
(Tele. Brecon 405).

Nurse M. M. Jones (Relief),
Westlyn, Garth Road, Builth Wells
(Tele. Builth Wells 3121).

Nurse M. Forrest (Relief).

District Nurses.

Nurse S E. H. Paige,
33, Heolmeurig, Lower Cwmtwrch
(Tele. Glantawe 3292).

Nurse C. Hughes,
63, Garn Road, Nantyglo, Mon.
(Tele. Brynmawr 296).

ORTHOPAEDIC.

Orthopaedic Nurse.

Miss I. B. Leefe,
Honddu House, Castle Street, Brecon.

MENTAL WELFARE.

Duly Authorised Officers.

Mr. H. G. Edwards,
13, The Watton, Brecon
(Tele. Brecon 240).

Mr. D. J. Davies,
Welfare Office, Lower Bailey St., Brynmawr
(Tele. Brynmawr 254).

Mr. W. B. Hargest,
c/o Mason's Arms Talgarth
(Tele. Talgarth 50).

Mr. D. W. Chambers,
Abertaff, Cefn Coed, Nr. Merthyr Tydfil
(Tele. Merthyr Tydfil 386).

Mr. Wm. T. Davies,
Peglers Buildings, Ystradgynlais
(Tele. Glantawe 3104).

CLERICAL.

Chief Clerk. Mr. R. I. Jones.

Senior Clerk. Mr. R. E. Page,

Mr. I. Lewis.
Mr. T. Jones.
Miss A. Vaughan.
Mr. R. W. Jones.
Mrs. S. J. Wall.
Miss S. Josć.
Miss J. Hadley.
Mrs. A. J. G. Davies (Resigned 31/1/53).
Mr. W. G. Phillips.
Miss E. Lewis (Commenced 2/2/53).

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH IN THE COUNTY.

Brecon Urban; and Rural; Builth Urban; and Rural; Hay Urban; and Rural; Llanwrtyd Wells Urban:	Dr. T. C. R. George, Guild Hall, Brecon (Tel.: Brecon 26).
Brynmawr Urban: Crickhowell Rural: Vaynor and Penderyn Rural: Ystradgynlais Rural:	Dr. J. Tate, Crossley House, Great Oak Road, Crickhowell. (Tel. Crickhowell 123).

SANITARY INSPECTORS IN THE COUNTY.

Brecon Urban:	Mr. S. Jinks, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Municipal Offices, Steeple Lane, Brecon.
Brynmawr Urban:	Mr. Thomas Eli Hall, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Council Offices, Brynmawr.
Builth Wells Urban:	Mr. E. V. Collins, M.R.S.I., Clovelly, Garth Road, Builth Wells.
Hay Urban:	Mr. Garfield G. Evans, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Council Offices, Belle Vue, Talgarth.
Llanwrtyd Wells Urban:	Mr. G. Williams, Llanwrtyd.
Brecon Rural:	Mr. W. J. Rees, M.R.S.1., M.R.I.P.H.H., M.S.I.A., Oxford House, The Watton, Brecon.
Builth Rural:	Mr. G. H. Llewellyn, M.R.S.I., Builth Wells.
Crickhowell Rural:	Mr. R. A. Jackson, M.S.I.A., R.D.C. Offices, Crickhowell.
Hay Rural:	Mr. Garfield G. Evans, Tower House, Talgarth.
Vaynor and Penderyn Rural:	Mr. S. P. Harris, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I., 26(b) Victoria Street, Merthyr Tydfil.
Ystradgynlais Rural:	Mr. W. Emlyn Jones, M.R.S.I., M.I.S.A., Council Offices, Ystradgynlais.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (Square miles)	...	7
Area (Acres)	...	469,281
Population (1931 Census)	...	57,775
,, (1939 Census)	...	54,357
,, estimated to Middle of 1953	...	55,700
Rateable Value (1st April, 1952)	...	£308,063
Sum represented by a 1d. rate, 1952/53	...	£1,215

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

Section 21.—Health Centres: Again it has not been possible to make any progress in the provision of Health Centres but the matter is still before the Committee.

Section 22. — Care of Mothers and Young Children: This Section covers the following activities:—(a) Ante-natal clinics, (b) Post-natal clinics, (c) Child welfare clinics, (d) Day nurseries and residential nurseries, (e) Mother and baby homes, (f) Dental treatment given to expectant or nursing mothers, and children under 5 years of age, (g) care of premature infants, (h) Ophthalmia Neonatorum, and Maternal Deaths, etc., and replaces the old heading of Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Tables dealing with the various sections are given below:—

Care of Premature Infants.—i.e., babies, weighing 5½ lbs. or less at birth, irrespective of period of gestation.

Special equipment for the domiciliary nursing of premature infants is held at the offices of the local health authority.

If found necessary to admit such infants to hospitals, the local hospital authority would be approached by the nurse or midwife and the greatest possible assistance would be given to arrange accommodation.

During 1953 the number of notifications of premature births in the County, after correction, was as follows:—

(1) **Premature Live Births.**

(a) Total Number of Premature Live Births in the Area		76
(b) Number of Premature Live Births at Home	...	18
*(c) Number of Premature Live Births in Private Nursing Homes	...	Nil
(d) Number of Premature Live Births in Hospitals	...	58

(2) **Premature Still Births.**

(a) Total Number of Premature Still Births in the Area		8
(b) Number of Premature Still Births at Home	...	2
*(c) Number of Premature Still Births in Private Nursing Homes	...	Nil
(d) Number of Still Births in Hospitals	...	6

*Including Maternity Homes not in the National Health Service and Mother and Baby Homes where the women are confined in the Home.

During the year all cases of premature births have been followed up, including those delivered in hospitals, which has necessitated the interchange of records between Local Health Authorities. The co-operation of the hospitals was also sought and the information required from them has been freely given.

Table VIII appended to this report shows the weight of the infants at birth and the numbers of infants who survived 28 days.

Complicated Maternity Cases.

The selection of cases for hospital confinements is undertaken by the department. Such cases are brought to the notice of the authority in four ways:—(1) the general practitioner, (2) the Clinic Medical Officer, (3) the midwife, or (4) the patient herself. In each individual case a report is then obtained on the housing conditions (or other social defect) and consideration is given to the question of whether hospital accommodation is required. Where the request for a hospital confinement is based solely on lack of assistance, this is in some cases overcome by the provision of domestic help, though the extent to which this help can be given depends on the domestic helps available and the accessibility of the home. Having decided that the case requires accommodation in hospital, a request is then made to the most convenient hospital to book the case for accommodation.

Three hospitals in Breconshire admit maternity cases:—

Brecon War Memorial Hospital ...	2 beds.
Crickhowell War Memorial Hospital...	7 beds.
Builth Cottage Hospital ...	3 beds.

In addition, accommodation is provided for Breconshire cases at the following hospitals outside the county borders:—

Hereford County Hospital.
Blaina and District Hospital.
St. James Hospital, Tredegar.
Gwaunfarren Maternity Home, Merthyr Tydfil.
St. Tydfil's Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil.
Neath General Hospital.
Abergavenny Cottage Hospital (occasionally).
Llandrindod County Hospital (occasionally).

In numerous instances it is necessary for a patient to be conveyed 20 or more miles to the nearest hospital where accommodation can be found and possibly the patients from Brecon Town and the surrounding countryside fare worse in this respect because of the added distance to any of the larger hospitals in the above lists.

During 1952, 528 births occurred in hospitals out of a total of 859, and for 1953, 540 births in hospitals out of 880.

Generally speaking, cases are not selected by the local health

authority for admission to hospitals on social grounds. The local health authority selections are primarily made on account of unsuitable housing conditions. Very frequently, however, practitioners succeeded in obtaining accommodation for their patients by arrangement direct with the hospital; this particularly applies in the Builth and Crickhowell areas.

During 1953 the following cases were admitted to hospital through the Health Department on account of bad housing, bad home conditions, or for medical reasons.

Brecon—30; Neath General—49; St. Tydfil's (Merthyr Tydfil)—5; Crickhowell—9; Gwaunfarren Maternity Home—11; St. James, Tredegar—6; Hereford County Hospital—20; Amman Valley—2; Builth Cottage Hospital 1.

In addition to the arrangements which were made in respect of the above, 5 investigations as to home conditions were made by this Department for the Glantawe Hospital Management Committee (Cases admitted to Amman Valley House, Neath General Hospital and Morriston Hospital).

Child Welfare Centres.

Child Welfare Centres are held throughout the County at the following places and at the times shown:—

	Centre and Place of Meeting.	Day and Time of Meeting.
1	Abercrave—Miners' Welfare Hall ..	2nd & 4th Wednesday in month at 2 p.m.
2	Brecon—Clinic, Watton Offices ...	3rd Friday in month at 2 p.m.
3	Brynmawr—School Clinic ..	1st and 3rd Wednesday in month at 2 p.m.
4	Builth Wells—Park House, Park Road Builth Wells ..	1st Tuesday in month at 2 p.m.
5	Cefn Coed—School Clinic ...	1st and 3rd Monday in month at 2 p.m.
6	Clydach—Welfare Hall ..	2nd Thursday in month at 2 p.m.
7	Colbren—Miners' Welfare Hall ...	2nd Monday in month at 2 p.m.
8	Crickhowell—Senior School ..	4th Thursday in month at 1-30 p.m.
9	Cwmtwrch—Miners' Welfare Hall ..	4th Wednesday in month at 2 p.m.
10	Darenfelen—Welfare Hall ..	2nd Thursday in month at 10 a.m.
11	Defynock—Reading Room, Sennybridge..	3rd Tuesday in month at 2 p.m.
12	Gilwern—Church Hall ..	4th Thursday in month at 1.30 p.m.
13	Hay—Wesley Hall, Oxford Road ..	4th Thursday in month at 10 a.m.
14	Hirwaun—Bethel Church Vestry ...	Tuesdays, weekly.
15	Llanwrtyd Wells—War Mem. Institute	1st Friday in month at 2 p.m.
16	Talgarth—Town Hall ...	4th Tuesday in month at 2 p.m.
17	Ystradgynlais—School Clinic ...	1st and 3rd Thursday in month at 2 p.m.

When necessary, cases are referred to their own doctors or to Hospital for treatment or consultation.

The clinic held weekly at the Bethel Church Vestry, Hirwaun, is organised by the Glamorgan County Council, and mothers from the Vaynor and Penderyn district of Breconshire are catered for by arrangement with Glamorgan. Breconshire pays a proportionate cost of this clinic based on the population of the area covered and a Breconshire health visitor attends regularly.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

Facilities for ante-natal examinations are provided by the local health authority at the following centres where one of the Assistant Medical Officers is in attendance. These clinics are held at the times and places stated:—

1. Abercrave: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.
2. Brynmawr: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.
3. Cefn Coed: 1st and 3rd Mondays, a.m.
4. Ystradgynlais: 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.
5. Devynock: 3rd Tuesday, at 11 a.m.
6. Brecon: 3rd Friday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.
7. Hirwaun: Bethel Church Vestry, weekly, Tuesdays, 9.30 a.m.

These clinics are held in:—One Welfare Hall, one converted dwelling house, and one church vestry, which are all hired premises, one school and three permanent clinic premises which are owned by the Education Authority and/or the Local Health Authority.

The clinic at Hirwaun is conducted weekly by the Glamorgan County Council and persons from the Hirwaun and Penderyn portion of Breconshire attend under a joint arrangement between the two authorities.

Post-Natal Clinics.

There are no specially held post-natal clinics—all patients attend the ante-natal sessions.

Specialist Clinics.

There are no specialist clinics held under the auspices of the local health authority.

Assistance given at Clinics in General Practitioners' own Premises.

Assistance is not normally given at clinics held in general practitioners' own premises apart from the district nurse/midwives attending at surgeries with their patients when requested to do so.

Blood Testing.

Arrangements are made for collecting blood specimens at the clinics and these are sent to the Beck Laboratory, Swansea, or the Family Planning Association.

Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants, and Homeless Children in the District—

Arrangements are made with the Swansea and Brecon Moral Welfare Association to carry out this work in return for grant paid, the Health Authority being responsible for the maintenance of the mother for approximately one month before the confinement and for a period of 14 days after birth. Maintenance

after this date becomes the responsibility of the Welfare Committee, who also give the Association an Annual Grant of £100.

Mothercraft Training.

No special clinics are held for this purpose since all advice is given by the health visitors in the course of their rounds.

Maternity Outfits.

Maternity outfits are distributed free of charge to expectant mothers by the midwives who are booked for the cases. The outfit provided is a standard sterilized pack, supplied by a manufacturer of surgical dressings.

Necessary items required for the lying in, which are not included in the maternity outfit, are provided by the midwife attending the case.

Day Nurseries, Hospitals for Children, and Mother and Baby Homes.—There are none in the County. The Education Committee has one Nursery School at Brynmawr.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum—

Number of cases in 1953, in which

(a) vision was unimpaired ...	2
(b) vision impaired ...	Nil
(c) vision lost ...	Nil
(d) patient died ...	Nil
(e) patient still under treatment at end of year ...	Nil
(f) patient removed from district ...	Nil
(g) classification under above heads cannot be made...	Nil

Maternal Deaths—

(a) **Number of women who died in consequence of childbirth during the year:—**

	From Sepsis.	From Other Causes.	Totals.
Confined at home ...	—	—	—
Confined in Nursing Home ...	—	—	—

(b) **Number of women who died:—**

At home ...	Nil
In nursing homes ...	Nil
After removal to an Institution ...	Nil

Supply of Dried Milks, etc.

The Supply of proprietary brands of dried milk is not undertaken at the clinics. The demand for the various brands is so small that stocks would deteriorate before being used. In parts of the County there is a system of chits being used which enable Cow and Gate or Ostermilk to be purchased from the local chemists at a slightly cheaper rate. This scheme is dependent on the

readiness of the local chemists to honour these vouchers or even to stock the brand of milk. Many chemists consider that the demand is so small that they do not feel it justifies them taking part in any such scheme. The majority of children in the county are fed on National Dried Milk.

The local health authority has arranged for the supply of Scots Twin Pack cereal at clinics. This is sold at a cheap rate.

Dental Care of Mothers and Young Children.

Treatment has been provided for expectant and nursing mothers and children under 5 years of age by the School Dental Staff at the following clinics:—

Brecon, Brynmawr, Cefn Coed, and Ystradgynlais.

One eleventh of the Dental Officers' time was made available for this work with the approval of the Breconshire Education Committee. At first the demand for treatment was small, but this is steadily increasing.

In addition to the treatment shown in Table VII (b), two dentures were repaired.

Details of patients examined and treatment carried out during the year are shown in Table No. VII at the end of this report.

Section 23—Midwifery Service—

Under the provisions of Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the local health authority has fulfilled its obligations by covering its area by a sufficient number of qualified midwives to meet the needs thereof. To this end the authority had in its employ on the 31st December, 1953, 3 whole-time and 26 part-time midwives, giving an equivalent whole-time staff of 16 midwives available to attend upon women being confined in their own homes. In addition to these there were 5 private midwives and 12 hospital midwives practising in the County during 1953, the total number of practising midwives during the year being 46.

One Superintendent Nursing Officer is employed, who is also the Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives. Periodic inspections are made to the midwives employed by the local health authority, and visits made to midwives not employed by the local health authority.

Tables dealing with midwifery, notification of births, etc., are given below:—

Supervision of Midwives—

Sixty Midwives notified their intention to practice in the County, viz., 52 resident and 8 border midwives.

Of the above—

16 were resident in Institutions.
6 were in independent practice.
38 were employed by the County Council: County, 31; Border, 7.

During the year, of the resident midwives 7 left the County.

Ante-Natal Supervision by Midwives—

Domiciliary midwives undertake ante-natal supervision of their patients. This supervision is backed by a comprehensive service provided by the general practitioners, the local health authority at their ante-natal clinics, and the Hospital Service.

The domiciliary midwives work in close co-operation with the local general practitioners undertaking maternity medical services. They attend with these patients whenever required to do so, at the doctors' surgeries. Doctors are notified of births by the Public Health Department within a week of the notifications of birth being received. This has been arranged at the instigation of the Local Medical Committee.

Notification from Midwives during 1953—

79 Forms of sending for Medical Aid were received:—65 for mothers and 14 for children.

An analysis of the causes for summoning medical aid is given below:—

For the Mother:—

Miscarriage, Abortion, actual or threatened	...	5
Contracted Pelvis	...	—
Hæmorrhage, ante and post partum	...	2
Prolonged, obstructed and labour inertia	...	6
Malpresentation or Malposition	...	2
Other illnesses during pregnancy	...	—
Retained or adherent placenta or membranes	...	1
Ruptured perineum	...	22
Unsatisfactory condition of mother	...	1
Pyrexia	...	4
Premature Labour	...	2
Albuminuria	...	1
Breech	...	—
Phlebitis	...	—
Ante-Natal—re position	...	—
Post Maturity	...	—
Oedema of Feet and Ankles	...	1
Oedema of Legs and Ankles	...	1
Oedema of Face and Legs	...	1
Oedema of Face and Hands	...	1
Hæmorrhoids	...	1
Prolapsed Cord	...	1
Hypertension	...	2
Hydramnios	...	2
Mastitis	...	1
No Foetal Heart heard	...	1
Patient's Nervous Condition	...	1
Head on Perineum and no advance	...	2

Foetal Distress	...	1
Still Birth	...	2
Episiotomy Suturing	...	1
For the Child:—		
Premature or feebleness	...	—
Deformity or abnormality	...	1
Eye Infections	...	3
Unsatisfactory Conditions	...	6
Skin Condition	...	—
Jaundice	...	—
Stillbirth	...	—
Cyanosis	...	1
Nasal Obstruction	...	—
Convulsions	...	—
White Asphyxia	...	1
Tight Foreskin	...	1
Blue Asphyxia	...	1

In some cases, one Medical Aid Form was used for several different causes.

Fees of Doctors called in under Midwives Act, 1918—Section 14 and N.H.S. (Amendment) Act, 1949, Section 29(2).

No. of cases in which General Practitioners claimed payment in respect of Medical Aid Forms	...	3
Total amount of Claims paid	...	£13 11s. 0d.

Breaches of Central Midwives Board Rules.—No breaches of the rules occurred in the year.

Administration of Analgesics.

25 midwives employed by the local health authority are qualified to administer gas and air analgesia to patients under their care. The authority has supplied apparatus to all these midwives. Only one midwife employed by the local health authority is not qualified to administer gas and air analgesia—she is considered unsuitable for training on account of age.

1. Number of midwives in practice in the area, including private and hospital nurses qualified to administer analgesics, in accordance with the requirements of the Central Midwives Board:—

(a) Domiciliary	...	27
(b) In Institutions	...	5
Total		32

2. Number of cases in which analgesics were administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the year ... 144
3. Number of Midwives trained in the year ... —

4. Total number of sets of Minnitts Gas and Air Apparatus supplied by the Council ... 27

5. Number of cases in which Pethedine was administered by Midwives in Domiciliary practice during the year ... 24

Refresher Courses for Midwives.

Owing to the difficulty of sparing staff, no midwives have undergone refresher courses.

Training of Pupil Midwives.

No facilities exist for the actual training of pupil midwives within the County.

Notification of Births.

The following notifications of births were received during the year: Live Births 620; Still Births 9; making a total of 629.

These births were attended by:—

District Nurse Midwives: County 333; Border 0 ...	333
Private Midwives: County 6; Border 1 ...	7
Hospital and Institutional Midwives ...	289

Number of Births notified in the Authority's Area during 1953 under Section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936, as adjusted by any transferred notifications:—

(a) Live Births, 866; (b) Still Births, 14; (c) Total, 880.

Section 24—Health Visiting.

The health visiting staff consists of 1 Superintendent Nursing Officer, 1 whole-time and 19 part-time health visitors, who also act as district nurses and/or school nurses.

The health visitors visit monthly to children under one year of age and thereafter at three-monthly intervals to those between one and five years, although the two-year-olds are visited more frequently. Health visitors are also called upon to investigate cases requiring domestic help to ease the strain of this work on the Domestic Help Supervisor, who is also the County Superintendent Nursing Officer.

In addition to health visiting of expectant and nursing mothers and young children, the health visiting staff works in close co-operation with the hospitals. When notices of discharges are received from the hospitals these are forwarded to the appropriate health visitor for the area giving the diagnosis, treatment and recommendation as to further treatment needed. In some instances the health visitor, being also the district nurse, undertakes any practical nursing required.

The Council has in the past offered scholarships to suitable candidates who are prepared to train for the Health Visitors Certificate. This is generally undertaken as a combined training

under the auspices of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing. No nurse was so trained in 1953. There are no facilities for the training of student health visitors within the County.

No arrangements have been made for refresher courses for health visitors.

Particulars of the number of visits paid to mothers and babies are to be found in Table VI appended.

Section 25—Home Nursing.

A whole-time nursing service is provided by the local health authority. The staff consists of two whole-time and 24 part-time nurses, giving an equivalent of 8 full-time nurses. The nurses in the various districts co-operate to the fullest extent and work in conjunction with the general practitioners. The supervision of the nursing in the home is exercised by the Superintendent Nursing Officer. Liaison with the hospital and domiciliary nursing service does not generally exist in a direct nature. In the small hospitals within the County the doctors at the hospitals are normally the general practitioners who are already in close contact with the district nurses. In the case of the large base hospitals situated outside the County, the patient's doctor is aware of the requirements of discharged cases and he requests what attention is necessary. Also, as in the case of health visitors, hospitals contact the department when they require domiciliary nursing of any case being discharged.

Figures of cases of home visits paid and cases attended are given below:—

1. Number of visits paid by Home Nurses ... 46602
2. Number of cases attended by Home Nurses ... 2055

Classification and Proportion of Main Types of Cases attended by Home Nurses.

During the year, 2,055 patients were nursed in the homes and 46,602 visits were made.

These cases were classified as follows:—

		Patients.	Visits.
Medical	...	1276	31587
Surgical	...	645	9708
Infectious Diseases	...	24	68
Tuberculosis	...	31	1555
Maternal Complications	...	11	70
Others	...	68	3614

Section 26—Vaccination and Immunisation.

Under the provision of Section 26 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, arrangements are made for vaccination to be

carried out by general practitioners and for immunisation against diphtheria by the general practitioners and at clinics by the local health authority's Medical Officers.

Health Visitors in their visits to the homes encourage the parents to avail themselves of the opportunity of having the children vaccinated.

Health Visitors also encourage the mothers to bring their children to the clinics for immunisation against diphtheria or take them to the general practitioner. Furthermore, the parent of each child is sent an individual notice at about the child's eighth month urging the mother to take advantage of the facilities available. Boosting injections of diphtheria prophylactic are given at five years and again at ten years. These last two boosting injections are usually given at schools or school clinics.

(a) Vaccination—

Vaccination can be carried out by the family doctors at their surgeries at the request of the parents, and practitioners who have expressed a wish to undertake this work are supplied with lymph free of charge on request to the appropriate Public Health Laboratory, and record cards are supplied from the Health Department on which to enter the necessary particulars, these cards being returned to the County Medical Officer for statistical purposes and for payment to the General Practitioner.

Vaccination is free of charge to the patient.

Figures of persons vaccinated each year from 1948 to 1953 are given below:—

Year.	Primary Vaccination.	Re-Vaccination.
1948	89	17
1949	112	16
1950	141	25
1951	215	69
1952	170	36
1953	191	30

Figures of Persons vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) in 1953.

Age at 31st Dec., 1953 i.e., born in years ...	Under 1 1953	1 (1952)	2 to 4 1949 to 1951	5 to 14 1939 to 1948	15 or over (before 1938)	Total
Number Vaccinated ...	153	7	5	1	25	191
Number Re-Vaccinated	..	..	1	3	26	30

(b) Diphtheria Immunisation—

Diphtheria Immunisation work is being carried out quite satisfactorily at the various Infant Welfare Centres, on school premises and clinics, and from the figures obtainable to the end of the year, there is no doubt that the scheme is working most efficiently. In addition, children are immunised by private practitioners at their surgeries, and record cards are provided by the Health Department. Completed records are returned for statistical purposes.

Number of children immunised during the year 1953 by Officers of the Council and by General Practitioners.

District	Primary Immunisation		Totals	Re-inforcing Dose
	Under 5	5—14		
Brecon Urban ...	70	7	77	202
Brynmawr Urban ..	56	7	63	19
Builth Urban ..	27	1	28	21
Hay Urban ...	10	7	17	49
Llanwrtyd Urban ...	3	1	4	11
Brecon Rural ...	45	19	64	100
Builth Rural ...	18	7	25	23
Crickhowell Rural ...	39	39	78	134
Hay Rural	27	..	27	77
Vaynor and Penderyn Rural ...	33	1	34	1
Ystradgynlais Rural ...	130	16	146	202
Totals, 1953 ...	458	105	563	839
Totals, 1952 ...	544	274	818	985

On the 31st December, there were 7,487 children in the County who had completed a course of Immunisation at any time before that date. The number of children thus protected represents 58.9 per cent. of the estimated child population.

The following table shows the children in age groups who were immunised at the 31st December, 1953.

Age @ 31-12-53, i.e., born in year	Under 1 1953	1—4 1952—1949	5—9 1948—1944	10—14 1943—1939	Total
Number Immunised	40	2043	3078	2326	7487

Immunisation against Whooping Cough.

No arrangements have been made for the immunisation of children against whooping cough as a general scheme. Some doctors, however, who participate in the scheme of immunisation against diphtheria, do a small amount of pertussis immunisation jointly with the injection for diphtheria.

Consideration is, however, being given to the question of inaugurating a scheme for immunisation against whooping cough, and such a scheme will be put into operation during 1954.

Section 27—Ambulance Service.

The Ambulance Services in the County are undertaken by the St. John's Welsh Home Ambulance Service Association who act as sole agents for the County.

Eight ambulances are used in the service—four provided directly by the authority and four provided by St. John's. All are, however, under the direct control of St. John's for operational purposes. The day to day administration is the responsibility of the County Medical Officer on behalf of the local health authority. The ambulance arrangements remain as follow:—St. John Ambulance Stations are established at Brecon, Builth, Crickhowell, Hay, Brynmawr, and Ystradgynlais.

1. Brecon Ambulances.—Two ambulances cover Brecon Borough and the whole of Brecon Rural District.
2. Builth Ambulance covers Builth Urban, Llanwrtyd Urban, and Builth Rural District, with the exception of the parish of Llanwrthwl at the very north of the County. This ambulance will also, by arrangement with Radnorshire, in emergency cases only, continue to cover as heretofore a small area of that County adjoining Builth Urban, viz., the parishes of Llanelwedd, Llansantffraed-in-Elvel, Aberedw, Disserth, Rhulen, Llanbadarn-y-garreg, Llanfaredd and Cregrina, Glasewin and Colva. Radnorshire, on their part, will cover for us the three Breconshire parishes of Llysdinam, Llanfihangel Brynpabuan, and Llanwrthwl in the north of the County by their ambulance from Llandrindod Wells.
3. Hay Ambulance covers Hay Urban and Hay Rural Districts, together with the Radnorshire District of Painscastle Rural and villages of Newchurch and Michaelchurch-on-Arrow.
4. Crickhowell Ambulance covers the whole of the Crickhowell Rural District, other than Clydach and Darenfelen areas.
5. Brynmawr Ambulance.—An additional ambulance for the Brynmawr, Clydach, and Darenfelen areas was provided on the 1st April, 1950, by St. John's.

The Welsh Home Service Ambulance Committee act as sole agents of the authority for the above areas of the County and operates the Brecon, Builth, Hay, Crickhowell, and Brynmawr ambulances on terms mutually agreed and as may be approved

by the Minister of Health from time to time. The Welsh Home Service Ambulance Committee is responsible for the operation and maintenance of an efficient ambulance service in these areas.

6. Ystradgynlais Ambulances.—Two ambulances owned by the local health authority in this area operate within the framework of the County Ambulance Service, are controlled by St. John's and are subject to the supervision of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Apart from what has been mentioned above, in connection with Radnorshire, there are two areas of the County, both situated on the southern border, for which arrangements have been made for them to be covered by outside authorities as follow:—

(a) Vaynor and Penderyn Rural District, including the Brecon Rural appendage of Hepste. Glamorgan has undertaken to cover this area in their scheme by their ambulances stationed at Seven Sisters, Glynneath and Aberdare.

(b) The Village of Cefn Coed and the adjoining Parish of Vaynor (Pontsticill). The Borough of Merthyr Tydfil has undertaken to include this area in their ambulance scheme.

Since a considerable number of people live in the rural part of the Penderyn parish situated on the eastern border of this parish where it adjoins the parish of Vaynor but live within easy access of the main Brecon-Merthyr road, arrangements have been made that these people should be covered for ambulance purposes by the Merthyr Borough, even though they actually live within part of the area for which Glamorgan has undertaken responsibility since it is much more easy to obtain ambulance transport from Merthyr and the Merthyr General Hospital is the one to which they always go when in need.

The arrangements with the Border counties have worked satisfactorily and the various difficulties which periodically arise are always smoothed out without any trouble. I think it can be considered that the scheme is working very well.

A County Ambulance Transport Committee meets regularly, and includes representatives of the County Council, the Ystradgynlais District Ambulance Association, the Regional Hospital Board, and co-opted representatives of other interested bodies, together with the Welsh Home Service Ambulance Association, who operate the service.

The ambulances are mainly situated at garages under contract agreements between St. John and the proprietors, with the exception of the Ystradgynlais ambulances which are housed in a County Council garage at which three whole-time drivers are employed by St. John. It must be pointed out that in the Ystradgynlais area the ambulances also undertake the conveyance of all sitting case patients as well as those requiring ambulance transport.

Sitting Car Service.

This service is running quite efficiently and works as follows:—

Each medical practitioner, midwife, hospital matron, etc., is supplied with voucher books authorising journeys to be made by private car at the expense of the local health authority in all cases where by reason of physical or mental defect the patient is unable to travel by public conveyance, and the starting point is situated within the County. The charges permitted are agreed by the local health authority, who advertise for tenders from car proprietors who are willing to undertake the conveyance of patients. For this purpose the County is divided into 13 areas which are covered by 10 contractors. The following table shews the contractors and the parishes covered during the year ending 31st March, 1954. At Ystradgynlais, sitting patients are conveyed by the ambulances since whole-time personnel are employed. Cefn Coed and Penderyn, although not covered by an official contractor, present no difficulties, much of the work being done by the bordering authority on our behalf, and a few isolated cases are conveyed by local garage proprietors.

Area No.	Contractor.	Districts.
1.	T. J. Brown & Sons... 1, George St., Brynmawr.	Brynmawr, Darenfelen, and Clydach.
2.	Howells & Honeybun The Garage, Cwmdu.	Llangynidr, Bwlch and Cwmdu.
3.	W. F. Price, .. Herbert Villa, New Road, Crickhowell.	Crickhowell, Gilwern, Grwynefawr, Grwynefechan, Llanbedr, Llangattock, Llangenny, Partrishow.
4.	County Garage, .. The Watton, Brecon.	Borough of Brecon, Parishes of Merthyr Cynog, Llanddew, Llandefaelogfach, Battle, Aberyscir, Vennyfach, Llanspyddid, St. David's Without, Glyn, Modrydd, Cantref, Llanfrynach, Llanhamlach, Llanwern, Llansantraed, Llanfihangel Talyllyn, Llangasty Talyllyn, Cathedine, Llangorse, Llanfillo, and Llanfigan (excepting Torpantau) and Llandetty (excepting Pontsticill and Dolygaer).
5.	E. Haydn Williams, .. Haulfryn, Sennybridge.	Parishes of Llandeilorfan, Llanfihangel Nantbran, Trallong, Ysclydach, Traianmawr,, Traianglas, Cray, Senny, Maescar, and Penpont.
6.	No tenders. ..	Vaynor, Penderyn and Ystradfellte.
7.		
8.	W. R. Powell, .. The Garage, Llanwrtyd.	Urban District of Llanwrtyd, and Parishes of Llanwrtyd Without, Llandulas, Penbuallt, Gwarafog, Llanafanfechan, Llanlleonfell, Llanafanfawr, Llanfihangel Abergwessin, Llandewi Abergwessin, Treflis.

Area No.	Contractor.	Districts.
9.	Lewis Bros., The Garage, Garth Road, Builth Wells.	Urban District of Builth and Parishes of Rhosferig, Llanganten, Llanynis, Maesmynis, Llangynog, Llandewi'r Cwm and Alltmawr.
10.	E. D. Morgan, Dolgai, Llanwrthwl.	Llanwrthwl, Llysdinam (Breconshire) and Llanfihangel Brynpabuan.
11.	J. V. Like, Madigan's Garage, Hay-on-Wye.	Urban District of Hay, and Parishes of Hay Rural, Llanigon, and Tregoyd and Velindre.
12.	A. H. Davies, New Inn, Talgarth.	Talgarth, Llanelieu, Llandefalle (Southern half), Bronllys, Aberlynfi and Pipton.
13.	Davies & Son, Wye Garage, Llyswen.	Llyswen, Gwenddwr, Crickadarn, Llandefalle (Northern half).

No tenders were received in respect of Districts No. 6 and 7—Vaynor, Penderyn, and Ystradfellte — but the Sub-Committee understand that the firm providing the cars for this service are prepared to continue on terms which differ very little from the foregoing contracts.

The Sub-Committee would point out that no tenders were invited and, therefore, no contracts entered into in respect of the Ystradgynlais District, in view of the fact that this district is at present adequately covered by the County Council's ambulances operating in that district.

The Ambulance Service in Breconshire has no 24-hour central control but on the whole the service operates very smoothly indeed, in spite of this. Much consideration has been given to the question of central control and the question has also been subjected to considerable investigation by the officers of the Welsh Board of Health and the Ministry of Health, with the conclusion that a compromise has been arranged whereby a 24-hour service is guaranteed by the garages, and the County Health Department can act as central control during office hours. Calls for sitting cars during the day are normally made from hospitals outside the County to the County Health Department or to one of the ambulance stations. Requests from doctors within the County are made direct to the various contractors.

As a result of consultations, it was decided to incorporate a further clause in the contracts that all journeys of 50 miles or more should be authorised by the local health authority before being undertaken, and during the year this limit was reduced to 40 miles.

This condition has enabled the local health authority to combine a considerable number of journeys thereby reducing the cost accordingly.

Doctors and hospitals are from time to time reminded of economy and letters have been repeatedly written to hospitals requesting them to change times of appointments in order to fit in more than one patient in a car proceeding to the hospital.

The inconvenience and remote situation of many dwellings must have a direct bearing on the demand for transport under this scheme and although general practitioners are being constantly informed of this, it is inevitable that it must tend to increase the demand.

There does not appear to be any deliberate abuse of the scheme, which the local health authority supervises very carefully for any irregularities. Apart from the above, there were no difficulties encountered.

Since the inception of the scheme, the demands made upon the services have steadily increased and the following figures, as well as giving statistics for 1953, include figures for previous years to indicate the increasing demands.

Figures of the ambulance and sitting-car services during 1953 are given below:—

Ambulance Service.

Ambulance Station	Number of Journ'ys (1)	Patients Carried		Total Patients Carried (4)	Total Miles Tr'v'll d (5)	Accidents
		Str'tchr (2)	Sitting (3)			
Brecon ...	260	300	52	352	12004	30
Brynmawr ...	242	250	13	263	4252	26
Builth ...	183	205	9	214	7178	7
Crickhowell ...	231	318	21	339	8375	7
Hay ...	64	69	4	73	3126	17
Ystrad'lais ...	1010	671	2769	3440	44633	64
Totals ...	1990	1813	2868	4681	79568	151
1952 ...	1775	1518	2582	4100	72231	161
1951 ...	1697	1331	2403	3734	72684	129
1950 ...	1395	—	—	2913	67874	129
1949 ...	1216	—	—	2475	52668	90

Sitting Car Service—1953.

Month.		Journeys.	Patients.	Mileage.
January	..	358	747	10110
February	..	327	729	9097
March	..	401	870	9885
April	..	353	802	9193
May	..	324	676	9154
June	..	437	881	13375
July	..	372	786	10144
August	..	460	988	13628
September	..	436	932	12221
October	..	392	837	13201
November	..	391	771	10957
December	..	359	767	11095
		4610	9786	132060
1952	..	4223	8693	119638
1951	..	3577	5804	107172
1950	..	2690	2736	84205
1949	..	2064	2129	63045

Section 28.—Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care.

Under this heading comes the after-care of patients suffering from tuberculosis, mental illness or defectiveness, all types of illnesses, the provision of equipment and apparatus (medical comforts) required for nursing the patients in the homes, and accommodation in the recuperation homes. The local health authority, as was the case previously, is responsible for the provision of extra nourishment and clothes for the patient and his family, except in the case of patients who are in receipt of National Assistance, when these items would be the responsibility of the National Assistance Board. Provision of out-door shelters, special beds and bedding, and other nursing requisites, etc., is the concern of the local health authority, and applicants for any of these services are dealt with after furnishing particulars of all members of the family, income, etc. When assistance is given, it is either free of charge or on whole or part payment by the patient. The amount of payment to be made by the patient is assessed on an income scale adopted by the local health authority and approved by the Ministry of Health.

Such items as wheel-chairs and crutches are provided by the County Council if the need is a temporary one, but if the necessity is likely to be permanent, then the responsibility for the provision of the articles rests with the Regional Hospital Board, such items being supplied through the Ministry of Pensions. Any applications of this nature are forwarded by this Department to the appropriate Hospital Management Committee requesting them to deal with the case.

Nursing requisites of a minor nature are provided free in all cases.

TUBERCULOSIS. — The treatment of Tuberculosis in the County is carried on by the Welsh Regional Hospital Board (Tuberculosis Division). Table V (appended) shows the number of cases notified on Form "A" during the year.

Where necessary, the local health authority will provide tuberculosis patients with shelters on loan, though only one application has ever been received for such assistance. The health visitors visit households in which there are tuberculosis patients and offer advice as to contacts and preventive measures which should be taken by them. Cases of bad housing conditions are referred to the local housing authorities and extra nourishment can be provided by the local health authority for them.

The local health authority, with the Regional Hospital Board, arrange for the joint appointment of a medical officer who is employed in connection with the local health authority's services in relation to the prevention of illness, care and after-care of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

The Domestic Help Scheme under Section 29 also plays its part in the prevention of illness, care and after-car of these cases.

B.C.G. VACCINATION.

The Chest Physicians in Breconshire undertake the work of B.C.G. vaccination in the County areas under their control and the following cases have been vaccinated:—

1951 ..... 99 cases vaccinated.
1952 ..... 43 ,, ,,
1953 ..... 72 ,, ,,

The Time Tables of the Tuberculosis Chest Physicians are as follows:—

Name and Address of Chest Clinic.	Dates of Attendance.	Times.
1. Dr. D. I. Williams, 2, Bulwark, Brecon—Telephone 54.		
Brecon ..	Tuesdays ..	9.30 a.m.—Clinic. 11 a.m.—Consultations (Brecon Hospital). 2 p.m. Contacts Domiciliary Visits
	Fridays ..	10 a.m.—New and old patients. 2 p.m.—Contacts.
Builth Hospital Builth Wells ..	Mondays ..	10.30 a.m.—Clinic and Consultation.
The Hospital Llandrindod ..	Mondays ..	2 p.m. — Clinic and Consultation

Name and Address of Chest Clinic.	Dates of Attendance.	Times.
Knighton ..		
Presteigne ..	Patients seen by appointment only.	
New Radnor ..		
Penybont ..		
Ystradgynlais -- .. at Adelina Patti Hospital	Wednesdays	2 p.m.—Clinic
	Thursdays ..	2 p.m.—Contacts.
		3 p.m.—A.P. Clinic.

2. Dr. A. E. Aslett, "Hawthorns," Courtland Terrace, Merthyr Tydfil—Telephone 129.

For Cefn, Vaynor and Pontsticill Patients.

Courtland Terrace .. Merthyr Tydfil	Monday ..	2 p.m.—New and Old cases.
	Wednesday ..	9.30—Contacts (by appointment).
	Wednesday ..	2 p.m.—New and Old cases.
	Thursday ..	2 p.m.—A.P. Refill.
	1st Friday in month..	2 p.m.—Non - Pulmonary Consultation Clinic.

For Penderyn and Hirwaun Patients.

42, Cannon Street, .. Aberdare	Mondays & Thursdays ..	10 a.m. — New and old patients, Contacts

3. Dr. R. G. Prosser Evans, 107, London Road, Neath. Telephone, Neath 278.

For Pontneathvaughan.

107, London Road, .. Neath	Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays	9.30 a.m. to 12 noon Old and New Cases
		New Cases by Appointment only
	Tuesdays & Thursdays	2 p.m. — 5 p.m. Domiciliary Visits, etc.
	Wednesdays, 2 p.m. ..	B.C.G. Contact Clinic

4. Dr. F. W. Godbey, "Ennisclare," Llanarth Road, Pontllanfraith. Telephone—Blackwood 3281.

"Ennisclare," .. Llanarth Road, Pontllanfraith	Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays	Old and New Cases 10 a.m.
	Other days and times..	Special Clinics and Appointments

Note.—Brynmawr patients can also be seen at Blaina and District Hospital—Tuesdays—11 a.m. New and Old patients.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY (Welsh Regional Hospital Board).

Following upon the Mass Radiography Unit's visits to the County at the close of 1952, the unit visited Ystradgynlais and Cefn Coed early in the year in order to complete the survey of the County.

Facilities were made available for both the general population and school children over the age of 14 years at Ystradgynlais, and for school children of this category only at Cefn Coed, since in the latter district the general population was catered for by the unit's visit to Merthyr Tydfil. Apart from this the Mass Radiography Unit did not visit the County again during the year.

The following table shows the numbers of X'Rays taken and the results notified:—

District.		No. Examined.	Classification of Abnormalities. Definite Pulm. Tuberculosis.	Needing Observ.	Other Abnormalities.
Ystradgynlais	...	781	—	—	54
Cefn Coed	...	117	—	—	3
Totals	...	898	—	—	57

(2) **Illness Generally—**

Arrangements exist for the follow-up of all cases discharged from hospital and work in the after-care of patients is closely linked with the Domestic Help and Home Nursing Services.

Nursing equipment and apparatus are loaned to patients in accordance with a scale of assessment, but such items as air rings, bedrests, etc., are issued on loan free of charge. Items are loaned through St. John's, when the local health authority pay the loan charges, and also items have been purchased and loaned direct by the authority. As well as meeting the actual loan charges for the nursing equipment and apparatus, the local health authority has assisted the St. John's Association by allowing the use of suitable premises for storage.

During the year the following action was taken by the local health authority in regard to applications received for assistance. There is no doubt that the St. John's Association meet quite a number of requests for assistance by direct arrangements between the Association and the applicant, and the local health authority has no knowledge of this.

No. of cases.	Articles supplied or action taken.
1.	Air Cushion.
5.	Air Rings.
1.	Bed Chair.
2.	Bed Cradles.
3.	Ben Pans.
3.	Bed Rests.
1.	Blankets.
2.	Periods at convalescent home.
3.	Extra nourishment.
3.	Travelling expenses to orthopædic clinics.
6.	Wheel Chairs (temporary).

5. Applications withdrawn.
5. Over scale.
9. Referred to appropriate authority, i.e., National Assistance Board, Hospital, etc.

In addition to the above known applications, the nurses have for their own use such items as air rings and rubber sheeting which are loaned to patients.

Orthopædic Work.

The treatment of orthopædic cases is undertaken and the services of Mr. A. O. Parker, the orthopædic specialist, Prince of Wales Hospital, Cardiff, and Mr. J. G. H. James, orthopædic specialist, Neath Hospital, who are officers of the Regional Hospital Board, are available. A full-time orthopædic sister, Miss I. B. Leefe, is on the staff of the local health authority.

Miss Leefe works in the fullest co-operation with the Hospital Service and assists at Mr. Parker's operation sessions at Brecon Hospital; the Hospital Management Committee re-imburse the local health authority for her services. Mr. James attends the Ystradgynlais Clinic.

Primarily the scheme for orthopædic treatment affords treatment for school children since before the National Health Service Act, it was a scheme sponsored by the Education Committee for school children. This is gradually including adults which are referred to the orthopædic sister by general practitioners though the treatment and supervision of adults must of necessity remain a very small proportion in view of the demands already made upon Miss Leefe's services by the school and under school age children.

The Surgeons pay special visits to the clinics arranged by the authority as required and during 1953 the following centres were visited showing the cases referred:—

CENTRE DATE OF EXAMINATION	Brynmawr 24-4-53	Yst'lais 16-9-53	Brecon 16-10-53	Yst'lais 16-12-53
1. Number of Children called up for Examination	76	33	64	36
2. Number of Children Present and Examined	63	31	61	36
3. Number found not to require Treatment...		—	2	—
4. Number found to require Domiciliary or Clinic Treatment	52	23	49	27
5 Number found to require Hospital Treatment	3	2	4	4
6. For Further Observation	8	3	5	4
7. For X-Ray	—	3	1	1

VENEREAL DISEASES.—

The authority's health visitors are available for the visiting of these cases to encourage them to keep up their attendance at special clinics and continue with the prescribed treatment.

Apart from any assistance as above, the treatment of V.D. has been transferred to the Regional Hospital Board. There are no treatment centres in the County and patients attend at Swanset General Hospital, Hereford General Hospital, Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport, Cardiff Royal Infirmary, and Mardy Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil.

The figures relating to patients known to have been treated during 1953 are as follows:—

1. Number of patients on 1st January under treatment or observation:—

		Swansea General Hospital.	Hereford County Hospital.
Syphilis	...	2	1
Gonorrhœa	...	1	—
Others	...	1	—
Totals	...	4	1

2. Number of persons dealt with for the first time and found to be suffering from:—

		Swansea General Hospital.	Hereford County Hospital.
Syphilis	...	—	3
Soft Chancre	...	—	—
Gonorrhœa	...	2	—
Conditions other than Venereal		6	6

3. Total number of attendances of all Breconshire patients at—Swansea General Hospital 64; Hereford County Hospital 29.

No information has been received from the other hospitals as to the number of persons dealt with, etc.

CANCER. — During the year 98 deaths were recorded, giving a death rate of 1.75 per 1,000, as compared with 108 and a death rate of 1.95 in 1952.

Section 29—DOMESTIC HELP—

The cost of the domestic help scheme is constantly rising and this scheme is the most expensive service run by the Health Department. Help is given in cases of confinement, general illness (including tuberculosis) and chronic sick on a doctor's certificate and a visit from the Superintendent Nursing Officer acting as Domestic Help Supervisor.

All domestic helps are employed on a part-time basis and are paid on a hourly rate in respect of the work undertaken. Their supervision is undertaken by the Superintendent Nursing Officer, who used to visit each case personally to decide on the number of hours of help required before the domestic help was sent in, but the work has grown so enormously that much of it has to be delegated to the health visitors and nurses.

The cost of the Service to date is now over £12,000 a year and patients' contributions are insignificant. The scheme has worked well but it is dependent entirely upon the number of women throughout the county offering their services and this has not always been adequate to the demands in some areas.

The authority employs no whole-time domestic helps.

Number of Domestic Helps on roll at 31st December, 1953:—

(a) Whole-time, Nil; (b) Part-time, 113.

Number of cases where Domestic Help was provided during the year, together with the figures for 1949, 1950, 1951, and 1952, for comparison:—

	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949
Confinement Cases (including illness of Expectant Mothers)..	25	35	41	54	122
Tuberculosis Cases ..	4	5	3	6	
Chronic sick, including Aged and Infirm ..	115	94	89	68	
Others ..	31				
Totals ..	175	134	133	128	122

Section 51.—MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE.

In accordance with the proposals under Section 51 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the responsibility in respect of mental illness and mental defectiveness has been assumed by the Mental Health Sub-Committee which is a sub-committee of the Health Committee, as follows:—

(1) **Administration.**

(a) Committee responsible for Service.
Mental Health Sub-Committee.

(b) Number and Qualifications of Staff employed in the Mental Health Service.

Dr. W. F. W. Betenson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., County Medical Officer of Health, is responsible for the work of ascertainment of mental defectives and administrattion. Dr. R. G. Evans, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., C.P.H., D.P.H., and Dr. C. M. Evans, B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., are approved by the Council to act as approved doctors in the certification of mental defectives.

One Psychiatric Social Worker is employed by the Border Hospital Management Committee (Regional Hospital Board) who also gives part of her services to Breconshire patients. Breconshire, Radnorshire, and Montgomeryshire, together with the Regional Hospital Board, have an agreement whereby each contributes a proportion of the salary of this officer.

Five Duly Authorised Officers, residue of the Relieving Officer staff prior to 1949, are engaged throughout the County, and these work in the five areas as follows:—

(1) Brecon and Sennybridge.
(2) Brynmawr and Crickhowell.
(3) Builth and Talgarth.
(4) Ystradgynlais.
(5) Vaynor and Penderyn.

These officers give part-time service only and they are also Welfare Officers and Registrars of Births and Deaths.

Although these officers only give part-time service in the Mental Health field those at Brecon, Brynmawr, and Hay are actually whole-time officials of the Council, transferred from the Public Assistance staff, whereas those at Vaynor and Penderyn, and Ystradgynlais are only part-time officials, appointed since 1948.

(c) Co-ordination with Regional Hospital Boards and Hospital Committees.

One Psychiatric Social Worker is employed in conjunction with the Board's Hospital Management Committee.

Doubtful cases of mental deficiency are referred to the psychiatrist. In this connection the Medical Superintendent of the Mid Wales Mental Hospital gives every possible help.

Patients on trial from Mental Hospitals are supervised by the Psychiatrist Social Worker, and in some instances patients on licence from institutions for mental defectives are also visited by her. Visits are also made by the health visitors for the area to mental defectives on licence.

(d) Duties of the Local Health Authority under the Mental Treatment Act, Lunacy Acts and Mental Deficiency Acts, are carried out directly by officers of the Council, no duties being delegated to voluntary associations.

(e) Training of Staff.

No arrangements exist for the training of staff.

(2) Account of Work undertaken in the Community.

(a) Section 28, National Health Service Act, 1946.

No occasion has arisen whereby the function of Section 28 has been necessary on account of mental illness or mental defec-

tiveness. The services of domestic helps have, however, been allowed on account of the presence of a mental defective in the household.

(b) Under Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890 to 1930, by Duly Authorised Staff.

(i) During the year the duly authorised officers carried out the necessary duties under Section 14 of the Lunacy Act, 1890, to effect the certification of patients under Section 16 and subsequent removal to Mental Hospitals in the following cases.—

Brecon and District	...	2
Brynmawr and Crickhowell Districts		2
Builth and Talgarth Districts	...	3
Ystradgynlais District	...	2

(ii) The following cases were also admitted to hospitals and in all cases the services of the duly authorised officers were available where required:—

Voluntary cases	...	62
Temporary cases	...	—
Urgency orders	...	2

(iii) Other information—

(a) Cases admitted to and discharged from Mental **Hospitals during 1953—**

		Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.
Certified Patients under Section 16, Lunacy Act, 1890	...	11	8	7
Voluntary Patients, under Section 1, Mental Treatment Act, 1930	...	62	54	6
Temporary Patients under Section 5, Mental Treatment Act, 1930	...	—	—	—
Patients under Sect. 20, Mental Treatment Act, 1930	...	2	2	—

(b) **Actual number of Breconshire patients in Mental Hospitals on the 31st December, 1953—**

		Male.	Female.	Total.
Certified Patients	...	58	91	149
Voluntary Patients	...	20	23	43
Temporary Patients	...	—	—	—
Totals	...	78	114	192

Note.—For names and addresses of Duly Authorised Officers see under heading, National Assistance Act, 1948 (Welfare Services)—Page 25.

(c) **Under Mental Deficiency Act, 1913-1938—**

(1) The ascertainment of mental defectives is undertaken by the County Medical Officer of Health (Dr. W. F. W. Betenson) and by the Assistant Medical Officer (Dr. D. W. T. Harris), who has been approved by the Board of Education to undertake the ascertainment of mental defective children in accordance with Section 57(3) of the Education Act, 1944.

Mental defectives under statutory supervision and on licence are visited by the health visitors or in some instances by the Psychiatric Social Worker.

(2) Guardianship.

There are no patients under guardianship within the administrative county of Breconshire, neither are there any Breconshire cases under guardianship elsewhere.

(3) Arrangements for carrying out the statutory duty to provide occupation and training for defectives in the area.

The local health authority has no occupation or industrial centres for adults nor any method of home teaching.

On the 31st December, 1953, there were registered in the County the following mental defectives:—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
(a) Under Statutory Supervision—			
Under 16 years of age ...	3	5	8
Aged 16 years and over ...	46	45	91
(b) In Institutions—			
Under 16 years of age ...	3	1	4
Aged 16 years and over...	7	19	26
(c) On Licence from Institutions—			
Under 16 years of age...	—	—	—
Aged 16 years and over ...	1	4	5
(d) Patients certified in the year—			
Under 16 years of age ...	1	—	1
Aged 16 years and over...	—	—	—

Ambulance Services.—The ambulance service for mentally ill patients is the same as set out in Section 27.

St. David's Hospital, Brecon, is recognised as a place of safety under Section 15 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913.

Mental Hospitals.

The Regional Hospital Board has one hospital in the County, viz., the Mid Wales Hospital, Talgarth.

The Mid Wales Hospital, Talgarth, is recognised as a place of safety under Section 20 of the Lunacy Act, 1890, and patients in need of control can, therefore, be admitted and detained there

for not more than three days. The hospital has accommodation for both males and females.

LIST OF DOCTORS APPROVED UNDER THE MENTAL TREATMENT ACT, 1930.

The following Doctors have been approved by the Welsh Board of Health for the purpose of making recommendations under the provisions of the above Act:—

Section 1 (3) and 5 (3).

Dr. S. N. Chopra, Dunedin House, Alma Street, Brynmawr.
Dr. T. L. Davies, Buckingham House, Brecon.
Dr. G. Diggle, Chancefield, Talgarth.
Dr. Brian J. Hand, Mid-Wales Hospital, Talgarth.
Dr. D. L. Lees, Cantre Selyff, Lion Street, Brecon.
Dr. D. Kyle, Glasfryn, Alexandra Road, Brecon.
Dr. D. F. Cameron, Tyn-y-berllan, Builth Wells.
Dr. J. K. Pugh, "Maesycoed," Builth Wells.
Dr. C. M. Fenn, "Meadow Way," Llanwrtyd Wells.
Dr. N. E. Melling, "Wennetune," Sennybridge.
Dr. R. F. Jayne, The Cottage, Talgarth.
Dr. R. C. Humphreys, "Dilvinia," Crickhawell.
Dr. G. H. Beck, The Grange, Cefn Coed.
Dr. Margaret Barry, "Avondale," Ystradgynlais.
Dr. W. Boladz, "Avondale," Ystradgynlais.
Dr. E. W. Jones, "Brynhelig," Lower Cwmtwrch.

In addition to the above list the following Doctors who live outside the County have been approved for similar purposes:—

Merthyr Tydfil—Dr. S. Bloom, 108, Brecon Road, Merthyr Tydfil.
Merthyr Tydfil—Dr. F. E. Cresswell, "Hillside," Dowlais.
Glamorganshire—Dr. S. D. Stewart, "Cilbrwyn," Godrergraig, Swansea.
Monmouthshire—Dr. A. Brookes, Penylan, Beaufort.
Carmarthenshire—Dr. F. W. Richards, "Glen View," Llandovery.

List of Doctors approved by the Mental Health Services Sub-Committee for the certification of Mental Defectives:—

Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913. Section 5 (2).

Dr. W. F. W. Betenson, County Medical Officer, Brecon.
Dr. D. W. T. Harris, Assistant County Medical Officer, Brecon. (Resigned 31/7/53).
Dr. R. G. Evans, Assistant County Medical Officer, Brecon.
Dr. C. M. Evans, Assistant County Medical Officer, Brecon.
Dr. D. Kyle, Glasfryn, Alexandra Road, Brecon.
Dr. D. F. Cameron, Tynyberllan, Builth Wells.
Dr. J. K. Pugh, Maesycoed, Builth Wells.
Dr. C. M. Fenn, "Meadow Way," Llanwrtyd Wells.
Dr. N. E. Melling, "Wennetune," Sennybridge.
Dr. R. F. Jayne, The Cottage, Talgarth.
Dr. A. Brookes, Penylan, Beaufort.
Dr. R. C. Humphreys, "Delvinia," Crickhowell.
Dr. C. Cianter, Plasyddol, Abercrave. (Deceased 1954).
Dr. H. Beck, The Grange, Cefn Coed.

Dr. S. Bloom, 108, Brecon Road, Merthyr Tydfil.
Dr. P. E. Cresswell, Hillside, Dowlais.
Dr. Margaret Barry, "Avondale," Ystradgynlais.
Dr. E. W. Jones, Brynhelig, Lower Cwmtwrch.
Dr. W. Boladz, Avondale, Ystradgynlais.
Dr. S. D. Stewart, Cilbrwyn, Godrergraig, Swansea.
Dr. G. W. Farrington, The Hermitage, Brynmawr.
Dr. R. M. Farrington, The Hermitage, Brynmawr.

The Report of Miss Gwendoline Morgan, the Psychiatric Social Worker for Breconshire, is given below:—

PSYCHIATRIC SOCIAL WORKER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1st APRIL, 1953, to MARCH 31st, 1954.

During the past year there has been an increase in the number of patients admitted to the Mid-Wales Hospital from Breconshire. The Psychiatric Social Worker has dealt with forty new admissions (sixteen more than in the previous year) and case histories giving details of family, personal and environmental background have been compiled in each instance.

There has been the usual flow of re-admissions; patients who suffer from recurrent attacks of mental illhealth have been visited in their homes and, when necessary, have been advised to attend the Psychiatric Clinic at Brecon War Memorial Hospital, or to re-enter the Mid-Wales Hospital for further treatment.

Generally it has been found that patients are encouraged by a continued interest in their well-being after leaving hospital, and in many cases it has been possible to help in solving problems concerning employment, matrimony and finance; worries which might have hindered continued progress if assistance had not been available.

On occasion it has been necessary to curtail a period of aftercare, for while the patient has been anxious to keep in touch with the hospital, it was sometimes necessary to make him face his responsibilities and regain his self-respect by cutting all ties with the past.

Recently there has been a noticeable improvement in the local attitude towards treatment of mental illness; this is due mainly to the publicity given to the Hospital by ex-patients who have been pleased and surprised by the conditions and the care they received. Encouraged by the experiences of others, those suffering from an early stage of an illness have agreed more readily to seek advice and treatment and often it has been possible to relieve a condition before an acute stage is reached.

There has been a small amount of work in connection with mentally defective patients in institutions. Relatives have been visited and interviewed so that where accommodation and supervision seem satisfactory, patients have been allowed to spend holidays with their own families.

In the last twelve months 249 visits have been made in Breconshire.

(a)	Case histories on admission ...	40
(b)	After care for Mid-Wales Hospital ...	201
(c)	Defectives and Kindred Social work ...	8

A year's work in the Psychiatric Social field cannot give an accurate picture of the value of after care to psychotic and neurotic patients, but a survey of the past four years is encouraging in that it shows that of a large number of persons visited after leaving hospital, only a small percentage have further breakdowns.

Analysis of 1st January, 1950—31st December, 1953.

	No. of patients who have received after care ...	108
A.	Patients who have remained out of hospital for one to four years ...	73%
	(Of the above 82% have shown no sign of instability or maladjustment. 18%, while managing to live in normal society, are still unstable and uncontrolled emotionally).	
B.	Patients who have returned to hospital periodically, i.e., recurrent conditions ...	10%
C.	Patients re-admitted and showing no obvious sign of recovery, i.e., chronic conditions ...	11%
D.	Patients who have died since leaving hospital ...	6%

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

The Welfare Committee of the County Council is responsible for the work under this Act.

Section 21 (a).

Homes for the Aged.

Ashburnham House, Talgarth ...	(15 beds)
Brynhyfryd, Builth Wells ...	(15 beds)
Cockcroft House, Hay-on-Wye ...	(60 beds)

Building work is in progress to provide ground floor accommodation for 12 extra residents, of the more infirm type, at Cockcroft House.

The Council have acquired a property known as "The Grove," Ystradgynlais, which, following works of adaptation, will provide residential accommodation for 28/30 elderly people.

Building will commence, during 1954, of a Home for the Aged at Brynmawr, which will accommodate 35 residents.

Section 21 (b).

Provision of Temporary Accommodation.

Temporary accommodation for persons who are in urgent need thereof, being in need, circumstances which could not reasonably have been foreseen, is provided at Welfare House, Llangattock, a former Poor Law Institution.

Section 29. Welfare of the Blind, etc.

A whole-time Welfare Officer and Home Teacher for the Blind is employed under the scheme for the welfare of blind and partially sighted persons in the County.

Cases are only added to the County Blind Register after examination by Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeons. They are examined at suitable centres throughout the County or domiciliary visits made by the Surgeons when necessary. The majority of cases are examined by Mr. G. W. Hoare, of Newport, who covers the greater portion of the County, but the services of other Surgeons on the borders of the County are sought as occasion demands.

During the year the Consulting Ophthalmic Surgeons examined and completed Forms B.D.8. in respect of 36 persons, certifying that 25 were blind and 11 partially sighted.

There were no cases of Retrolental Fibroplasia, nor blindness due to Glaucoma, without prior treatment.

The number of Blind and Partially Sighted Persons on the register at 31st December, is given below in districts: —

	Blind.		Partially Sighted.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female
Brecon Urban ...	12	13	3	1
Brynmawr Urban ...	10	10	1	1
Builth Urban ...	—	2	1	1
Llanwrtyd Wells Urban ...	1	3	—	—
Hay Urban ...	2	2	1	—
Brecon Rural ...	11	14	3	1
Builth Rural ...	2	3	2	1
Crickhowell Rural ...	11	7	3	2
Hay Rural ...	2	3	—	1
Vaynor and Penderyn Rural ...	12	8	3	3
Ystradgynlais Rural ...	11	26	3	3
Total ...	74	91	20	14

The following table indicates that of the 36 cases examined, 15 required no treatment, 21 cases required treatment, and of these 15 received treatment during the year.

A. Follow-up of Registered Blind and Partially Sighted Persons.

	Causes of Disability.			
	Cataract.	Glaucoma.	Retrolental. Fibroplasia.	Others.
(i) Number of cases registered during the year in respect of which para. 7(c) of Forms B.D. 8. recommends ..				
(a) No treatment ..	3	2	—	10
(b) Treatment (medical surgical or optical) ..	10	3	—	8
(ii) Number of cases at (i) (b) above which on follow-up action have received treatment ..	5	3	—	7

B. Opthalmia neonatorum.

As mentioned previously in this report there were 2 cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum reported during the year:—

(i) Total number of cases during the year ... 2

(ii) Number of cases at which:—

(a) Vision lost ... Nil

(b) Vision impaired ... Nil

Treatment continuing at end of year ... Nil

Other Handicapped Persons.

The Council have under consideration a scheme for the welfare of handicapped persons, and are considering ways and means of establishing welfare services for the deaf and dumb.

Epileptics and Spastics.

The number of persons in the County who are epileptics is not known, although there are six epileptic school children, three of whom are in special Schools. One adult is also maintained in an institution.

Neither is the incidence of Cerebral Palsy in the County known, apart from the fact that there are 7 School children on the Handicapped Register.

The County Council intends submitting proposals under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948, providing for the care of Handicapped Persons; such arrangements to include pro-

vision for epileptics and spastics. When these proposals are approved and brought into operation a register of handicapped persons will be maintained.

Section 47.

Removal of people in need of care and attention.

One person was admitted to Cockcroft House, Hay-on-Wye, under an Order obtained at Cefn Coed Magistrates' Court by the Medical Officer of Health for South Breconshire.

	District.	Welfare Officer and Duly Authorised Officer.
1.	*Brynmawr, Llanelly Hill and Crickhowell.	Mr. D. J. Davies, Welfare Offices, Lower Bailey Street, Brynmawr.
2.	Vaynor and Penderyn.	Mr. D. W. Chambers, Abertaf, Cefn Coed.
3.	Ystradgynlais.	Mr. W. T. Davies, Station Road, Ystradgynlais.
4.	*Brecknock and Defynnog.	Mr. H. G. Edwards, 13, The Watton, Brecon.
5.	*Hay, Talgarth and Builth	Mr. W. B. Hargest, Mason's Arms, Talgarth.

*Whole-time Officers.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Smallpox Hospitals. — Arrangements have been made for Smallpox Cases to be admitted to Penrhys Hospital and for Consultants to be called in to suspected cases. On diagnosing a case the Consultant will be responsible for arranging for Penrhys Hospital to be ready to receive the patient. In emergencies, where the consultants are not immediately available, a telephone call should be put through to the City Isolation Hospital, Cardiff (Telephone: Cardiff 21466), giving details to a responsible officer. The patient will be removed by the County Council under their Ambulance Scheme made under Section 27 of the N.H. Service Act, 1946.

Table I.—Vital Statistics for Various Districts for 1953.

Name of District.	Population estimated to the middle of the year.	Births				Nett Deaths belonging to the District				Deaths of Infants under 4 wks. of age		Deaths of Mothers	
		Live Births		Still Births		At all ages		Under 1 y'r of age					
		Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number.	Rate per 1000 Live Births	Number	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion.	Rate per 1000 Births
Brecon Urban	5933	98	16·51	..	..	97	16·34	1	10·20	1	10·20	..	..
Brynmawr Urban .. .	6362	98	15·40	4	0·62	79	12·41	2	20·40	1	10·20	..	..
Builth Wells Urban	1561	24	15 37	..	..	23	14·73	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hay Urban	1448	31	21·40	..	..	21	14·50	1	32·25	1	32 25	..	..
Llanwrtyd Wells Urban	546	8	14·65	..	..	10	18·31	..	..	..	..	..	..
Brecon Rural	7464	129	17·28	3	0·40	79	10·58	2	15·50	2	15·50	..	..
Builth Rural	8413	55	16·11	2	0·29	41	12·01	3	54·54	3	54 54	..	..
Crickhowell Rural	7859	150	19·08	4	0·50	81	10·30	11	73·33	7	46·66	..	..
Hay Rural	3711	46	12·39	2	0·53	48	12·93	1	21·73	1	21·73	..	..
Vaynor and Penderyn Rural ..	5893	86	14·59	3	0 50	74	12·55	3	34·88	1	11·62	..	..
Ystradgynlais Rural	11510	155	13·46	4	0.34	128	11·12	2	12·90	1	6·45	..	..
Brecon County	55700	880	15·79	22	0·39	681	12·22	26	29·54	18	20·45	..	..
England and Wales	..	..	15·5	..	0·35	..	11·4	..	26·8	..	..	..	..
Brecon County, 1952 ..	56200	823	14·64	34	0·60	664	11·81	23	27·91	10	12 15	..	..

Table II.—Vital Statistics.

Causes and Ages at Death during the Year 1953.

WHOLE COUNTY.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and under 75 years.	75 and over
ALL CAUSES—Males	361	11	3	1	4	16	87	95	144
Females	320	15	3	3	1	15	70	75	138
Totals	681	26	6	4	5	31	157	170	282
1 Tuberculosis, Respiratory	4	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...
2 Tuberculosis, Other	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3 Syphilitic Diseases	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
4 Diphtheria	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6 Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7 Acute Poliomyelitis	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
8 Measles	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
9 Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	...	...	1	...	...	...		...
10 Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	25	...	...	...	...	...	8	8	9
11 Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	14	...	...	..	...	2	6	4	2
12 Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	9	...	...	...	...	1	6	1	1
13 Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	5	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	1
14 Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	45	...	...	...	...	1	12	16	16
15 Leukaemia Aleukaemia,	4	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	1
16 Diabetes	5	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	1
17 Vasoular Lesions of Nervous System	116	...	...	...	..	2	19	28	67
18 Coronary Disease, Angina	64	...	...	...	...	...	24	21	19
19 Hypertension with Heart Disease	16	...	...	...	...	...	5	6	5
20 Other Heart Disease	151	...	...	...	1	4	23	34	89
21 Other Circulatory Disease	35	...	...	...	...	2	5	5	23
22 Influenza	6	...	...	...	..	...	2	2	2
23 Pneumonia	14	6	...	...	...	...	4	2	2
24 Bronchitis	41	1	1	...	...	...	10	11	18
25 Other Diseases of Respiratory System	13	...	...	...	...	1	4	5	3
26 Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	6	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	1
27 Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
28 Nephritis and Nephrosis	9	...	...	..	...	2	4	3	...
29 Hyperplasia of Prostate	6	...	...	..	...	...	...	3	3
30 Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31 Congenital Malformations	7	6	1	..	...	...		...	...
32 Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	57	11	2	1	1	6	15	6	15
33 Motor Vehicle Accidents	7	...	1	..	2	2	1	1	...
34 All Other Acoidents	12	1	...	...	1	2	1	3	4
35 Suicide	3	...	...	...	...	1	2	..	...
36 Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Table III.—Vital Statistics.

Causes of Deaths in the Separate Districts of the County. during the year 1953.

Cause of Death.	URBAN					RURAL						TOTAL
	Brecon	Brynmawr	Builth Wells	Hay	Llanwrtyd Wells	Brecon	Builth	Crickhowell	Hay	Vaynor and Penderyn	Ystradgynlais	
Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	4
Tuberculosis, Other ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Syphilitic Disease ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	..	...	1
Diphtheria ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningococcal Infection ...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	..	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	5	2	1	...	...	1	4	2	1	4	5	25
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Bronchus ...	1	1	1	1	...	4	1	2	...	1	2	14
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	2	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	1	2	1	9
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	2	2	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	1	5
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	4	7	1	1	1	6	4	5	1	4	11	45
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2	4
Diabetes	...	1	...	..	...	2	..	...	..	1	1	5
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	28	12	1	2	1	14	6	14	7	8	23	116
Coronary Disease, Angina ..	6	12	1	2	3	6	3	6	6	7	12	64
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	2	..	...	...	...	...	6	2	2	3	16
Other Heart Disease ...	20	12	11	6	5	14	13	13	17	15	25	151
Other Circulatory Disease ..	10	2	1	...	...	7	1	1	2	1	10	35
Influenza	...	..	1	..	...	1	...	2	1	...	1	6
Pneumonia	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	5	...	14
Bronchitis	3	14	2	2	...	6	...	4	..	7	3	41
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	2	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	..	7	13
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	3	...	...	...	6
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	3	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	1	1	9
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	1	...	...	1	..	1	...	...	...	1	2	6
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Malformations .	...	...	...	...	..	2	...	4	..	...	1	7
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	5	5	...	4	...	6	8	5	4	13	7	57
Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	3	7
All Other Accidents ..	2	1	1	..	...	1	...	1	2	2	2	12
Suicide	1	...	...	.	...	1	..	1	...	..	...	3
Homicide and Operations of War	..	...	...	..	...	...	..	..	...	...	...	..
Totals ...	97	79	23	21	10	79	41	81	48	74	128	681
Totals, 1952 ...	79	88	27	21	11	85	40	73	34	74	132	664

Table IV.—Notifiable Diseases, 1953.

DISTRICT	Small Pox	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Acute Poliomyelitis.	Erysipelas.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Chicken Pox	Malaria	Food Poisoning	Dysentery	Meningococcal Infection	Para Typhoid	TOTALS
Brecon Urban ..	..	22	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	8	..	..	..	..	..	2	35
Brynmawr Urban ..	..	18	..	..	8	..	2	1	..	..	20	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	54
Builth Wells Urban ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Hay Urban ..	..	5	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	22	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28
Llanwrtyd Wells Urban ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Brecon Rural ..	..	26	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	58	7	..	2	..	..	..	..	94
Builth Rural ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Hay Rural ..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Crickhowell Rural ..	..	34	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	166	35	..	..	..	1	..	..	239
Vaynor and Penderyn Rural	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	37	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	44
Ystradgynlais Rural ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28	15	..	..	..	..	..	2	45
Totals ..	..	112	1	1	12	1	2	2	..	2	352	76	..	2	..	1	..	4	568
Total, 1952 ..	..	35	2	1	14	1	2	..	..	1	285	138	..	3	..	1	1	133	618

Table V.—Tuberculosis.

Summary of Notifications during the period from 1st January, 1953, to 31st December, 1953.

	Notification on Form A.													
	Number of Primary Notifications.													Total (All Ages).
Age Periods ...	0 to 1	1 to 2	2 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 to 75	75 and upwards	
Respiratory—Males... ...	...	...	...	3	1	3	..	6	3	1	3	1	...	21
,, Females ..	...	..	1	2	1	...	6	4	4	2	1	...	...	21
Non-Respiratory—Males ...	...	..	...	1	..	2	..	1	...	..	1	...	...	5
,, Females ...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	..	..	...	...	...	...	2
Totals	...	..	2	6	3	5	6	11	7	3	5	1	..	49

Table VI.—Showing the work of the Health Visitors during the Year 1953.

DISTRICT	NUMBER OF VISITS PAID											Totals
	Pre-Natal Visits		First Visits	Total Visits	Visits to Children 1—2		Visits to Children 2—5		Visits to T.B. Households	Others	First Visits Paid to Households during the Year	
	First Visits.	Total Visits	To Children under 1	To Children under 1	First	Total	First	Total				
Brecon Urban and Rural (Part) ..	3	6	92	709	6	368	10	402	147	21	161	1925
Brynmawr Urban and Darenfelen ..	8	5	88	246	6	257	11	270	213	165	114	1383
Builth Urban and Rural (Part) ..	..	..	34	196	5	310	..	242	73	..	130	990
Hay Urban and Rural (Part) ..	11	..	23	209	30	176	9	124	35	1	134	752
Llanwrtyd Urban and Builth Rural (Part)	2	3	26	120	3	124	3	154	27	48	85	595
Brecon Rural & Crickhowell Rural (Part)	..	..	109	1092	6	1042	8	1230	119	16	412	4034
Brecon Rural (Devynock, etc.) ..	1	2	31	117	..	85	1	64	38	8	92	439
Brecon Rural (Part), Merthyr Cynog ..	3	3	31	215	..	71	1	115	6	5	78	528
Builth Rural and Hay Rural (Erwood and Llyswen) ..	..	..	19	153	..	94	1	236	..	1	85	589
Builth Rural (Llanwrthwl) ..	2	7	..	10	6	13	14	59	2	..	13	126
Builth Rural (Llwynmadoc) ...	..	..	14	77	..	67	..	96	7	79	54	394
Builth Rural (Llysdinam, etc.) ..	1	..	5	34	..	14	1	69	..	5	5	134
Crickhowell Rural (Clydach and Gilwern)	3	..	36	164	..	79	..	48	21	..	6	357
Crickhowell Rural (Glynfach) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hay Rural and Brecon Rural (Talgarth, etc.) ..	..	..	36	285	11	178	32	167	111	14	290	1114
Hay Rural (Glasbury and Llanigon) ..	17	..	36	186	34	106	87	122	11	1	155	755
Vaynor and Penderyn Rural ..	5	..	138	412	8	268	6	594	219	42	479	2136
Ystradgynlais Rural (Part) ..	..	..	115	1376	4	878	2	661	264	173	819	4292
Ystradgynlais Rural (Abercrave) ..	..	..	30	1102	..	475	..	269	107	44	210	2227
Ystradgynlais Rural (Colbren) ..	7	7	21	342	28	155	1	146	14	18	61	800
Relief Nurses ..	1	..	7	15	..	3	..	3	25	10	13	77
TOTALS ..	64	33	861	7060	142	4703	187	5051	1439	651	3396	23647

N.B.—Owing to the absence from duty of the Brynmawr Health Visitor, this year's figures for the Brynmawr and Darenfelen districts have been grouped together.

Table VII.—Dental Care of Mothers and Young Children, under Section 22, of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

(a) Numbers provided with Dental Care:—

	Examined	Needing Treatment	Treated	Made Dentally Fit
Expectant and Nursing Mothers ...	25	24	22	16
Children under Five ...	25	22	22	17

(b) Forms of Dental Treatment Provided:—

	Extractions	Anaesthetics		Fillings	Scalings or Scalings and Gum Treatment	Silver Nitrate Treatment	Dressings	Radiographs	Dentures Provided	
		Local	General						Complete	Partial
Expectant and Nursing Mothers ...	85	85	...	11	3	...	6	...	1	1
Children under Five ...	24	23	1	10	...	...	15	...	...	...

Table VIII.—Analysis of Premature Births (Live and Still) belonging to the County.

Premature babies born during the year (whose mothers normally reside in the area) including babies born in maternity homes and hospitals in or outside the County.

WEIGHT AT BIRTH	PREMATURE LIVE BIRTHS.															Premature Still Births		
	* Born in Hospital			Born at Home and Nursed entirely at Home			Born at Home and Transferred to Hospital on or before 28th Day			Born in Nursing Home and Nursed entirely there			Born in Nursing Home and Transferred to Hospital on or before 28th Day			Born in Hospital	Born at Home	Born in Nursing Home
	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of Birth	Survived 28 Days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of Birth	Survived 28 Days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of Birth	Survived 28 Days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of Birth	Survived 28 Days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of Birth	Survived 28 Days			
3 lb. 4 ozs. or less	3	1	1	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Over 3 lb. 4 ozs. up to and including 4 lb. 6 ozs. ...	14	1	11	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
Over 4 lb. 6 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 15 ozs. ...	9	1	7	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 4 lb. 15 oz. up to and including 5 lb. 8 oz. ...	32	—	32	10	—	10	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Totals ...	58	3	51	13	—	13	5	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	2	—

* The Group under this heading includes cases born in one Hospital and transferred to another.